(2) The belief might have been that the disease was only slightly contagious.

(3) The question of opening a leper colony in a convenient place in Kudamon pakuthi (Kunnattur taluk) is being considered.

Conversion of the Village Road from Mavelikara-Pantalam Road to Kunnattur Market.

67. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the repeated requests of the inhabitants of Iravankara, Tazhakara and the neighbouring places in Mavelikara taluk for turning the village road running southwards from the 2nd milestone on the Mavelikara-Pantalam road to Kunnattur market into a cart road, and the construction of an irrigation culvert at the northern end of the road?

(2) Are the Government aware of the losses and difficulties which the people suffer for want of the road and the culvert?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to expedite the works concerned?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The road is reported to be steep and of little use for carts. The construction of an irrigation culvert is also reported to be not urgently necessary.

(2) The Chief Engineer has received a petition, but the Government are not convinced of the necessity for the conversion of the road and the construction of the culvert at the Government cost.

(3) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (2).

Lands under Tea cultivation.

68. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state the following particulars in regard to tea cultivation in the State:—

(*a*) the area of lands which have already been marked out by the Government as available for tea cultivation in the State;

(*b*) the area of lands already assigned for tea cultivation;

(*c*) the area of lands assigned for tea cultivation in the State, owned by Travancoreans or companies incorporated in Travancore and the area owned by Europeans or companies incorporated in Europe;

(*d*) the area of lands, left uncultivated, out of those already assigned for tea cultivation;

(*e*) the area of lands still remaining to be assigned out of the total area referred to in part (*a*);

(*f*) whether the land referred to in part (*a*) is suitable for cultivating any one or more of the following crops, *viz.*, potatoes, grapes, rubber, plantains, bananas, yams, tapioca, hill rice, maize, raggi, peas, gram, Bengal-gram, onions and dhal;

(*g*) whether the lands assigned and marked out for tea cultivation are allowed by the Government to be used for other cultivation;

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[Mr. G. Raman Menon.]

(*h*) if the answer to part (*g*) is in the negative, whether the Government will kindly consider the desirability of removing the restriction;

(*i*) whether any special concessions are allowed in respect of lands assigned or assignable for tea cultivation, over and above those allowed on ordinary *puduval* lands, and, if so, the reasons for the same; and

(*j*) whether the Government have investigated the desirability or otherwise of disafforesting any further areas from the reserved forests for tea cultivation?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No lands have been earmarked for tea cultivation.

(*b*) 1,95,379 acres.

(*c*) (i) Area owned by Travancoreans and companies incorporated in Travancore—1,469 acres.

(ii) Area owned by Europeans and companies incorporated in Europe—1,90,223 acres.

(iii) Area owned by British Indian subjects—687 acres.

(*d*) 1,14,205 acres.

(*e*) and (*f*) These questions do not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

(*g*) Lands assigned for tea cultivation may be cultivated with other crops. But if any portion of the lands granted is cultivated with cardamoms or rubber or any other produce liable to an enhanced assessment, it is open to the Government to impose on that portion such rates of special assessment as may be applicable to the lands cultivated with such products.

(*h*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*g*).

(*i*) The concession allowed in respect of tea lands is that the lands will be free of assessment for three years on condition that a quarter of the area granted, is cleared and planted within the first two years. The concession is granted with a view to encourage the industry in the hills.

(*j*) The answer is in the negative.

Report against subordinates of the Agricultural and Industries Departments.

69. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state how many subordinate officers were reported against by the Directors of Agriculture and Industries, respectively, since the 2nd Medam 1096 and who they are?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The Government are not prepared to state how many subordinate officers were reported against by the Directors of Agriculture and Industries respectively, as the information is confidential.

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